

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Subject to Vote of Approval – Special Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, July 2, 2020** – 2 pages

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman via Zoom video conference. Other commission members who were present included Kelly Kearney, Gerry Wetjen, Rachel Wellman, Sarah Cramer, Lori Coppinger, and Gina Morgan. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski, and Golf Professional John Verrengia were also in attendance.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

No changes were made to the May 20, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bush declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

**Public Session:**

None.

**New Business**

*Potential Open Space Acquisition- “Meadowood Site” Referral to Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission from Board of Selectman-* Mr. Tyburski shared the PowerPoint presentation related to the Meadowood Conservation Purchase. Right now the land is used agriculturally but it is zoned for housing. If the Town were to purchase the property, the Town’s share would be \$2.1 million and it has been appraised at \$6 million, the remaining funds would be coming from grants obtained in partnership with the Trust For Public Lands. The phased conservation outcome is 138 acres of open space with State DEEP recreational access easement, 24 acres for future athletic fields, 117 acres of farmland preservation with State Dept. of Agriculture easement and 3 acres with historic bans and MLK interpretive displays. Mr. Tyburski reported that a landscape architect was utilized to provide a preliminary design of 6 multi-purpose fields, which is anticipated for the 24 acre parcel. The athletic fields are not an immediate project, however, there are not many sites left in town where future athletic fields could be built. As schools are projected to see increase in enrollment over the next decade, these fields may be needed in the future.

Mr. Wetjen stated that he feels the Town needs to provide tax payers a cost benefit analysis of this project.

Ms. Coppinger made a motion to provide a positive referral on the Meadowood Acquisition. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

*Report to Commission on Golf Course Restaurant Vendor Concerns-* Mr. Bush shared with the Commission that he was concerned with numerous issues related to the Simsbury Farms golf course vendor. There was a direct and open meeting with the vendor regarding the concerns and plans for the future. One concern was that there was not an adequate menu, in a relative short period of time a difference in this area has been noticed. Other concerns raised involved hours of operation and staffing. New wait staff has been hired and the new menu has been posted on the vendor’s website. One concern raised is that the hours in the morning have not been consistent as to when someone is there. This issue will be addressed moving forward.

Ms. Coppinger shared that her concern is consistency of standard items. Mr. Wetjen stated that consistency of hours is a concern for him.

*Discussion Regarding Downtown Flower Basket Plantings-* Mr. Tyburski shared that Mr. Kearney inquired as to what C.P.R. could do to enhance the downtown experience whether it be flower baskets, lighting, flower

boxes etc.. After further discussion as to ideas, Mr. Bush stated that he would like to have a conversation off of Zoom to come up with more a plan as to what we are proposing for the other Stakeholders.

## **Old Business**

*Simsbury Farms Golf Course Update-* Mr. Verrengia updated the Commission that June was another great month, possibly the best ever, and we will likely have seen one of the highest revenue years for the fiscal year that ended June 30. Golf camps started this week, everything went perfect and for the next two weeks they are pretty much booked up. Mr. Tyburski reported that May and June were the two busiest back to back months in the past twenty years.

*Parks and Facilities COVID-19 Update-* Mr. Tyburski reported that playgrounds and outdoor basketball courts will be opening July 6<sup>th</sup>, bringing them to full opening of parks and recreation facilities. They have continued to see a large crowd at the pool since opening June 20, every lap swim has been sold out, wading pools have been well attended and sport leagues have been allowed to play at Memorial Park again.

*Summer 2020 Camps & Aquatics Program COVID-19-* Mr. Tyburski reported that Camp Stuff-Ta-Doo is 60 kids at Memorial Park, which consists of 6 minicamps of ten. Temperature checks are being done upon arrival. There was an art camp at the Apple barn last week, and that same camp is sold out in August. There is also an upcoming Lego camp. There was a baseball camp at Memorial Field last week and another upcoming in August. They are operating camp wise at about 1/3 capacity. Swim lessons are selling quickly and daily admissions at Simsbury Farms pool have been almost, if not, at capacity. There were some issues in the beginning with residents not completing their pool reservation fully, however, that has since been remedied.

*Lighting and fiber optic-* Mr. Tyburski reported that this project is scheduled to go out to bid at some point in July, and the work will likely begin in mid-late September or early October.

*Update on Parks and Open Space Master Plan Process.* Mr. Tyburski reported that he received a draft of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and will send it to the C.P.R. Commission and Open Space Commission, there is a joint meeting of the two commissions scheduled for Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. As the plan is still in draft form, it should be not shared, it will be made public in the packet for the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Kearney shared that on October 2, 2020 Mike Wallace is retiring and he will be the honoree at the Simsbury Farms golf tournament.

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Kearney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be July 23, 2020 at 6 p.m. conducted via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor, Commission Clerk